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\*Admitted only in Maryland  
\*Admitted only in Virginia  
\*Practice Limited to  
Federal Agencies

June 8, 2006

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
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**Art Unit 1634**

**Mail Stop: Amendment**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/613,903; Filed: July 11, 2000  
For: **Nucleic Acid Ladders**  
Inventor: Heather J. JORDAN  
Our Ref: 0942.4450001/RWE/JKM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of \$1,020.00 to cover the three (3) month extension of time;
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
3. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

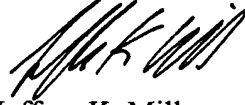
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
June 8, 2006  
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Jeffrey K. Mills  
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Registration No. 56,413

RWE/JKM:bac  
Enclosures

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